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NOTES AND NEWS

THE SOUTHERN LIMIT OF *TAXUS BREVIFOLIA* IN THE SIERRA NEVADA, CALIFORNIA—Current manuals describe the southern limit of distribution of *Taxus brevifolia* Nutt. in the Sierra Nevada as Tulare County. A recent search of herbaria (A, CAS, DS, GH, Herbarium of Fresno State College, JEPS, POM, RSA, UC, US, USFS, and USNA) and field studies have failed to turn up any locality south of Calaveras Co., 150 miles to the north. A collection from Yosemite Valley in 1874 (*Lemmon, DS, US*) appears to represent an erroneous record in view of the lack of more recent collections from Yosemite and the careless manner in which the Lemmon Herbarium was handled, and thus this record has been disregarded.

Earliest mention of Tulare Co. as the southern limit of *T. brevifolia* in the Sierra Nevada goes back to C. S. Sargent's *Silva of North America* (10:65. 1896). Twelve years earlier in his *Report on the Forests of North America*. (Department of the Interior. Washington, D. C. 1884), Sargent had described the distribution as "Sierra Nevada to about 37°N," or central Fresno Co. In view of the evidence presently available it seems plausible that these early reports of *Taxus* from southern Sierran counties are attributable to errors in collection records or field misidentifications, possibly of *Torreya californica* Torr. The southernmost occurrence of *T. brevifolia* in the Sierra Nevada is now considered to be Calaveras Co. (North Grove, Calaveras Big Trees State Park, 4800 ft., *Rundel 1887, DUKE*).—P. W. RUNDEL, Department of Botany, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.